

GRIST FROM THE MILL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

April 2004

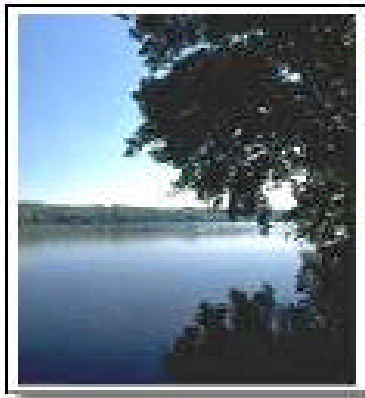


Volunteer Breakfast

Many cooks contributed to the bountiful breakfast that staff and volunteers enjoyed on March 13. Thanks to Philip Laura, Mike Henry's student intern and professional chef, for cooking the tasty French toast and baking scones from our whole wheat flour. The back-up chefs -- Bob Lundegard working in the volunteer room and Jim and Karen Hogan flipping flapjacks in the barn -- kept the food coming until everyone couldn't eat another bite. All the French toast and pancakes would have been pretty dull without our own maple syrup to sweeten them. A special thanks to Mason and Fred Pretty for hours of toiling over a hot fire boiling down gallons of sap into maple syrup.

We enjoyed talking with Mrs. Virginia McGavin, Sam Millard's daughter, and her daughter, Virginia Rita, about the Millard family. Erin Chernisky from the Resource Management Division was here to greet old acquaintances and meet new volunteers.

Then, we watched Mason's power-point presentation of mills he visited in Great Britain. We all learned why it's important to have the bolt head fastened in the right direction, found out that volunteers are just as important at English mills as at Colvin Run Mill, and discovered how the walls of one mill became covered in graffiti.



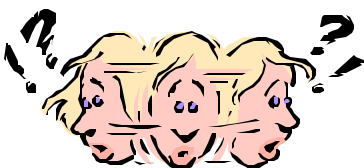
Lake Accotink Outing

Saturday, April 17 9:30am- 12:30pm

Celebrate National Volunteer Week with family, friends and other Resource Management Volunteers at Lake Accotink in Springfield. Lake Accotink Park's 493 acres include a 63-acre lake, wetlands and streams offering unique views of waterfowl and marsh life. Take a pontoon boat ride, play mini-golf and ride the antique carousel -- park amenities especially opened for us before the regular season. Stroll the trails and share observations with folks from the nature centers as you search for wildlife through the spotting scope.

At 11:30, lunch on a sumptuous buffet prepared for you in appreciation of all you do as a Resource Management Volunteer. We will meet at the McLaren-Sargent picnic shelter, easily accessible from the rear entrance to the park. See the bulletin board in the volunteer room for more information.

Please RSVP by April 14 to Erin Chernisky erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov or at 703-324-8750.



Field Trip

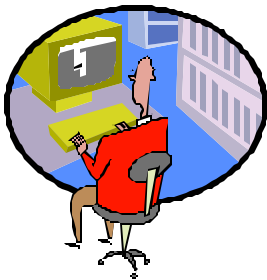
Where would you like to go on the next Colvin Run Mill field trip? Is Tuesday (when the site is closed) available for you or is Saturday a better day? Would you like to visit some museum sites in Baltimore -- which ones? Would you be interested in a weekday trip to Ashland Mills north of Richmond? The owners said they would be glad to give us a tour of the mill where

Mason buys the grain we grind, but they are closed on the weekends. Please let Mary Allen know what would be of interest to you.



Closed Door Policy

Please take a minute after your school group or tour to see that the front and back doors of the mill are closed. While we encourage everyone to visit Colvin Run Mill, we are occasionally surprised to find people roaming through the mill unattended -- it is not safe for them or for the items in the mill. While closing the doors will not deter the more determined, it will discourage wholesale wandering through the mill.



New Volunteer

Bing Tseng has worked on various computer programs for the government for the past 18 years. Now that he is no longer working, he would like to use his skills as a volunteer. Since Bing is a neighbor of Colvin Run Mill, he offered his services to us. Currently Bing is organizing the volunteer room library and we are looking for other projects to utilize his many talents.



Mendelssohn's Elijah April 25, 4 pm

Muriel Levin, one of our Wednesday teaching docents, also sings in the New Dominion Chorale. They are presenting Mendelssohn's Elijah with the Metropolitan Opera's John Cheek as Elijah and The Palestrina Choir and Orchestra. The performance is 4pm on Sunday, April 25 at the Schlesinger Concert Hall on the Alexandria campus of NOVA.

Muriel would love to see all music lovers there to support the Chorale. For tickets, call 703-442-9404 or Foxes Music or www.newdominion.org.



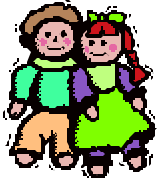
From the Millers Corner

Many thanks to all the volunteers who came on a frigid Sunday evening and then waited patiently for visitors from the Virginia Association of Museums to appear.

Mason rewarded everyone with the first grind of the spring season. Museum folks from around the state were interested and impressed to see a historic mill operating.

We heard many favorable comments, including the remark that the mill trip was the best thing of the whole conference.

Now that the new thrust bearing is in place, the gears are quietly doing their job and the rhythmic sound of the shaker calls attention to the final stage of grinding. Mason expects to resume Sunday grinding operations in April, filling the freezer with stone-ground flour, grits, and cornmeal.



Arti-facts from Dawn

Rag dolls abound, but Dawn wanted to know what type of rag doll would have been available for little girls in a rural community like Colvin Run in the early 20th century. When she found a picture of a typical home-made Raggedy Ann, Dawn used her sewing skills to reproduce one for the general store interpretation. The attached article details her search.

New Face in the General Store

By Dawn Kehrer



There's a "new face" in the Colvin Run Mill General Store. This latest addition to our interpretive "staff" is a doll---really! Our hand-made Raggedy Ann is ready to help children understand what items were probably made at home, and what items would probably have been purchased at the general store by a farm family at the turn of the 20th century. Our farmer girl would almost certainly have wanted Raggedy Ann, a popular doll in the early 20th century. Instead of buying one at the general store, mom could make Raggedy Ann from old clothing, purchasing the needles and thread at the general store.

After consulting with Jeanne Niccolls and Susan Clark of Collections Management as to the appropriateness for our interpretation, I patterned our Raggedy Ann after a c.1920 doll in the book, *The Knopf Collector's Guides to American Antiques – Dolls* by Wendy Lavitt, following the description of the doll's clothing, face and hair. In order to use period-appropriate fabrics, I consulted the book, *Dating Fabrics, A Color Guide 1800 – 1960* by Eileen Jahnke Trestain and purchased appropriate fabrics from a local store. Sally Epskamp provided the rust colored wool yarn hair.

Rag dolls have been popular throughout time. Eleanor St. Agnes, author of *The Dolls of Yesteryear* says that rag dolls were so cheap, so easily made and so soft and cuddly that probably the only children who never had one were Cain and Abel. In the 1860s in America, the availability of the sewing machine made it possible to produce well-stitched homemade bodies and clothes. In late 19th century America, mass-produced cloth dolls were the rage and they are popular to this day.

And what about Raggedy Ann? A 1999 internet article by Patricia Hall titled *Raggedy Ann and Andy: History and Legend*, relates the tale of the doll's creation. Johnny Gruelle, a well-known political cartoonist and illustrator of children's books, made the first Raggedy Ann after he put a face on a rag doll that was owned by his mother and found in his parent's attic around the turn of the 20th century. He named the doll after two of his favorite poems and then created stories to go along with her that were influenced by his daughter, Marcella Delight. Marcella died from an infected vaccination at the age of 13. Gruelle wrote Raggedy Ann stories for the next 20 years and passed away in 1938. The magic of Raggedy Ann lives on.....

You can visit the Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum in Arcola, Illinois.

On the Road with Bob and Marge

Every county needs an operating mill. Marge and Bob explored one of the two operational mills in Sussex County, Delaware and learned some of its history.

HEARNS AND RAWLINS MILL IN SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE



This mill is located on the old highway 13 in the town of Seaford, Delaware. The name of the mill has been changed to UNOI grain mill on the Hearn Millpond.

This was a family corporation that operated a water powered mill that produced a white

flour called "White Dove" and stone ground corn meal. Chicken and hog feed were also produced at this mill in the 1970's.

This is a three storied frame mill built in the mid-nineteenth century that has pegged pine beams and a gable roof with a cupola. The building is covered with some red metal siding and some silver metal siding. It is a small mill that, in the 1970's, operated five and a half days each week, employing four full time people. Today, the mill is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 4:30. Flour and corn meal are still produced but no longer is water the source of power. Electricity furnishes the power to the milling equipment that consists of roller machines and millstones.

The mill has had several owners. It was once called the Cannons and Ross Mill. In 1879, a fire razed the building. The mill was rebuilt and metal roller machinery was added. Six years later, the mill was purchased by Captain Marcellas Hearn and became known as the Hearn's Mill. Hearn died in 1916 and his son George H. Hearn and his daughter Mary C. Rawlins inherited the mill. Mary's husband, Phillip, operated the mill. Hence, the mill was renamed — Hearn and Rawlins Flour Mill. In 1931, George Hearn died and his nephew, Jacob Hearn Moore, became active in the mill that was incorporated in 1959.



In 1912, two overshot water wheels replaced the original turbine wheel. When the water level was low, electricity could be used. In 1930, the c.1879 rollers were replaced with new roller machines capable of producing three hundred pounds of flour hourly. Corn is ground using the original millstones that can grind a ton of corn meal in eight hours. The local scrapple industry purchased most of the corn meal.

Today, year 2004, the mill still operates four days a week producing flour and corn meal. The dam washed out a few months ago but has been repaired. The overshot metal water

wheels, one about eight feet in diameter and the other about four feet in diameter, are very rusted and not usable. A few pieces of siding need to be replaced.

The Abbott Mill and this mill are the two operational mills in the county. The mill encourages visitors and school groups to come to the mill. This is a great place to visit to witness a small mill in operation.